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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PREF](#) [GH](#) [TO](#)
SUBJECT: Embassy Referral for Francis A. Aglamey

¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY: Embassy Accra hereby refers Mr. Francis A. Aglamey and his family to the U.S. resettlement program. Mr. Aglamey took refuge in Ghana in 2006. As Director General Assistant of the Mission Baptist Hospital in Adeta, he gave orders to treat the wounded protestors after the April 2005 election in Togo and took pictures and video tapes of the patients. He initially fled to Ghana on 17 May 2005; upon his return to Togo on 19 May 2005 he was arrested and interrogated. After several arrests and threats to his life he fled to Ghana again with his family in October 2006. End Summary.

¶2. (SBU) The referral is for the following persons:

Francis A. Aglamey, DPOB: 31 Dec 1960, Zanve, Togo
Assibe Assogba (wife), DPOB: 30 May 1971, Lome
Xavier M. Aglamey (son), DPOB: 27 Jun 1983, Agouegan
Godman K. Aglamey (son), DPOB: 24 Jun 1993, Lome
Bright A. Aglamey (daughter), DPOB: 30 May 1971, Lome

¶3. (SBU) Mr. Aglamey is a member of the opposition party "Union des Forces de Changement" (UFC) and is of Mina ethnicity. He started working at the Baptist hospital in 1998. In October 2003, after he handed out yellow tee-shirts representing the color of the UFC, one of the hospital staff was beaten. Mr. Aglamey went to see Prefect Konte Watarma about the incident and was told that he should be the one who should be beaten, because the hospital was run by him, an opposition member.

¶4. (SBU) In April 2005, 26 wounded protestors sought treatment at the Baptist hospital, because they had been refused treatment at the public hospital. It appears that those protestors had burned the government office in the area in protest. Mr. Aglamey gave orders to treat them all and took videos and pictures of the wounded protester. Mr. Aglamey claims that the Prefect of the district was informed of the treatment of the protestors by a nurse at the hospital. The following day, police officer Combate of Adate informed Mr. Aglamey that the Prefect was sending soldiers to arrest him, and advised him to flee.

¶5. (SBU) In May 2005 he returned to Togo to find out why soldiers were seeking him. He was sent to the President of Justice in Kpalime, who in turn sent him to the Procurator of the court in Kpalime. On 19 May 2005, Mr. Aglamey was arrested and interrogated as to why he took pictures of the wounded and who burned the government office. As he was released, he was again threatened and told that his license plate number was known. In the evening of 10 June 2005, he was stopped near a traffic light at College St. Joseph and upon leaving his car, he was beaten. He went for treatment at the hospital of Be.

¶6. (SBU) On 12 and 23 January 2006, Mr. Aglamey was called to the office of the Chief of Gendarmes and told to stop firing hospital staff who sympathized with the ruling RPT. Mr. Aglamey replied he had to let them go because they had stolen goods from the hospital and not because they were RPT. On 7 February 2006, he was arrested and forced to sign false allegations. His house was searched without any warrant and video cassettes, photos, and documents were

taken.

¶17. (SBU) On 8 February 2006, the judge ordered him to be released, yet a few hours later he was arrested again. The next night soldiers drove Mr. Aglamey into the bush, presumably to kill him, but then took him to Lome where he was imprisoned again. The interrogators wanted to know if Mr. Aglamey had saved copies of the videos he took and if he had sent photos or videos to any NGO or Western organization.

¶18. (SBU) On 13 February 2006, Mr. Aglamey was released after pressure from the Human Rights Counselor and his church, but a few days later he was forced to resign from his position at the hospital and fled to Ghana. In July 2006, he returned to Togo, living in hiding and in August returned to Adeta, to try and get his job back. He was warned that RPT members were out to kill him. When he received yet another threatening letter, he again fled to Ghana with his family on 28 October 2006.

¶19. (SBU) Post has had intermittent contact with the refugee over the past 6 months. Mr. Harry Ward, a U.S. citizen who served as General Director of the Hospital and was Mr. Aglamey's supervisor from 2001-06, has supported Mr. Aglamey's account of the events. Political Assistant Jean-Pierre Koffi Dessou from the American Embassy Lome confirmed that Mr. Aglamey had reported the harassment based on his political activities in 2003, and said harassment was also confirmed by UFC and local journalists. Mr. Dessou also confirmed that Mr. Aglamey was harassed during the elections in 2005, which culminated in his imprisonment.

¶10. (SBU) Currently the Aglameys receive no humanitarian assistance. Their children are not attending school because the family cannot afford the tuition at Accra's private French-language school. Mr. Aglamey claims he has sold his wife's personal jewelry and other family possessions in order to feed his family.

¶11. (SBU) Embassy Lome has no objections to this referral.

BRIDGEWATER